

Signature Registry
75-9405/2

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 1975

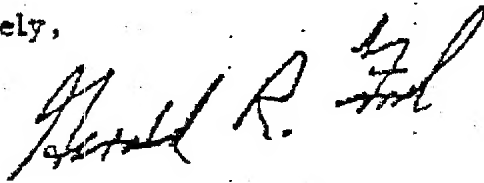
Dear Senator Eastland:

As you will recall, I previously advised Members of the Senate Select Committee of my concern about publication of their Assassination Report. Attached is a copy of my October 31st letter.

It is my understanding that the Senate will, this morning, consider the question of publication of the Committee Report. The purpose of my writing is to indicate to you that my earlier position has not changed. For the reasons assigned previously, I do not feel this publication is in the national interest.

It is my hope that after reviewing the Report, the Senate will concur with that view and, therefore, not authorize this publication.

Sincerely,



The Honorable James O. Eastland
President pro Tempore
of the Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

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| TRANSMITTAL SLIP | | DATE |
| TO: DCI | | |
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| REMARKS: | | |
| <p>This is the talking paper the White House used on the assassination report.</p> <p>Distribution: Morning meeting participants</p> | | |
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FORM NO. 241
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REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

The Senate Select Committee will present its Assassination Report to the full Senate for its information in a closed session on November 20 and thereafter make it available to the public. The Committee's investigation into this area is an outgrowth of President Ford's June 9 delivery of all materials in the Executive Branch on this subject to the Committee. In turning over this classified material, the President requested that the Committee "exercise utmost prudence in the handling of such information."

It is understood that this report will disclose identities of individuals associated with the various activities made the subject of the Senate Select Committee's investigation. The failure of the United States Congress to protect the identities of such individuals will place those persons and their families in danger, will have long-range effects on United States intelligence activities, and appears to violate the fundamental due process of those individuals.

1. The Senate Select Committee received the fullest cooperation of the Executive Branch in the conduct of its investigation. Materials subject to the claim of executive privilege were freely made available.
2. Former CIA officers and other present and former government officials testified before the Rockefeller

Commission and the Senate Select Committee in executive session. Many of these witnesses assumed because of the classified nature of their testimony any final report would be in classified form.

3. None of these witnesses have been shown that portion of the Assassination Report affecting them or the testimony of other witnesses similarly taken in executive session that would adversely affect their reputation. (See Senate Select Committee Rules of Procedures, Rule 6.9.)
4. When the Senate Select Committee draft report was completed, the CIA was requested to make one of its officials available to read the draft report for the limited purpose of commenting on "security problems which the report might inadvertently raise." The reviewing officer did not discuss the substance of the report with anyone in the Executive Branch.
5. In the process of reviewing the report the CIA officer pointed to over 30 names he believed should not be divulged because of the likelihood of danger to the individuals lives or livelihood. The Committee agreed to the deletion of approximately two-thirds of these names.

There are at least nine names that we understand are in the report where it is believed a real possibility of physical harm exists if the names are divulged.

Fundamental due process and the Rules of Procedure for the Committee would appear to require each of these individual to have the opportunity to acquaint himself with the text of the report and to offer such evidence as is available to justify deletion of his name.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Routing Slip

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| 8 | D/DCI/IC | | X | | |
| 9 | D/DCI/NIO | | X | | |
| 10 | GC | | X | | |
| 11 | LC | | X | | |
| 12 | IG | | X | | |
| 13 | Compt | | X | | |
| 14 | D/Pers | | | | |
| 15 | D/S | | | | |
| 16 | DTR | | | | |
| 17 | Asst/DCI | | | | |
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| SUSPENSE | | Date | | | |

Remarks:

Identical letters also addressed to Majority and Minority Leaders Mansfield and Scott.

File

Executive Secretary

11/20/75

Date

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| DATE OF DOC 20 Nov 75 | DATE REC'D 20 Nov 75 | DATE OUT | SUSPENSE DATE | CROSS REFERENCE OR POINT OF FILING | |
| TO Senator Eastland FROM Gerald R. Ford, President SUBJ. Re publication of the Assassination Report. ER 75-9405/2 <i>ssc file</i> | | | | ROUTING | DATE SENT |
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